

AN ORDINANCE

BY COUNCILMEMBER JOYCE M. SHEPERD

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ATLANTA HOUSING CODE OF 1987, APPENDIX E TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, SO AS TO ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF VACANT BUILDINGS; TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the existence of buildings and structures found to be vacant are more likely to be the site of illegal activity such as, but not limited to, arson, prostitution, drug use and trafficking, rape and murder; and

WHEREAS, these structures are therefore injurious to the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the communities wherein they exist, as well as to City of Atlanta at-large; and

WHEREAS, vacant structures have been shown to undermine the economic vitality of neighborhoods by devaluing adjacent and nearby property; and

WHEREAS, as foreclosures rise, so do the number of vacant properties; and

WHEREAS, such structures therefore cause the economic deterioration and instability of the communities wherein they exist, as well as the City of Atlanta at-large; and

WHEREAS, the City is burdened with the cost of inspecting and securing vacant buildings, as well as the cost of police and fire response; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Atlanta to combat the blight and harmful effects outlined above; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: That Section 6 of the Atlanta Housing Code of 1987. Appendix E to the Land Development Code be amended by adding the following:

Section 6. Definitions

Statement of Plan shall mean a specific written document prepared by the property owner regarding the vacant structure and plans for its rehabilitation, maintenance or demolition.

Vacant Structure shall mean a structure or building that is unoccupied for a period of ninety (90) days.

SECTION 2: That Section 14 of the Atlanta Housing Code is hereby amended as follows . . .

SECTION 3: That Section 17 of the Atlanta Housing Code is hereby amended as follows . . .

SECTION 4: That Section 22 of the Atlanta Housing Code is hereby amended as follows . . .

SECTION 5: That Section 25 of the Atlanta Housing Code is hereby amended as follows . . .

SECTION 6: All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed for purposes of the ordinances only, and only to the extent of the conflict.